

County of Los Angeles
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES

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BRYCE YOKOMIZO
Director



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August 16, 2004

TO: Each Supervisor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bryce Yokomizo', written diagonally across the space between the 'TO' and 'FROM' fields.

FROM: Bryce Yokomizo, Director

**SUBJECT: REPORT ON HOMELESS CALWORKS FAMILIES PILOT PROJECTS
(BOARD ORDER #19 - SEPTEMBER 16, 2003)**

This is to provide you with an interim report on the Homeless CalWORKs Families pilot projects underway in the Skid Row and San Gabriel Valley areas. As background, on September 16, 2003, your Board authorized the Departments of Public Social Services (DPSS) and Mental Health (DMH) and the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) to conduct two small pilot projects in the Skid Row and San Gabriel Valley helping a total of 40 families to find permanent housing. The projects began in October 2003 and were targeted to end June 30, 2004. (Thereafter, on June 15, 2004, your Board extended the projects through September 30, 2004.)

In response to your Board's September 16, 2003 instruction to create and implement an evaluation plan to determine the effectiveness of the projects and make recommendations for expansion throughout the County, DMH contracted with the California Institute of Mental Health (CIMH) for the projects' evaluation study. Your Board requested the evaluation report by July 2004, immediately following the projects' earlier targeted completion date of June 2004.

In fact, the evaluation will not be completed until December 2004. This is because CIMH is studying each of the projects' participants for six months following enrollment. As the last participant was enrolled in March 2004, the study will continue through September 2004, with the final evaluation report targeted for submission in December 2004.

Pending the results of the evaluation, the pilot projects are going well. To date, all 40 families have been enrolled and all are off the streets. Five have found permanent housing, 14 are in transitional housing, and 21 are in emergency housing. The families are now completing Section 8 applications and are participating in group focus meetings

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to prepare them for permanent housing and assist them in building a foundation to become self-sufficient and avoid future homelessness.

Pending the results of the evaluation, the projects do seem to be viable for expansion. Given the projects' success thus far, my staff is working with DMH and LAHSA on a plan for expansion for FY 04-05. The current pilot projects are serving 40 families in two DPSS district offices. While there is sufficient State Single Allocation funding included in DPSS' budget for expanding the pilot projects to a total of six DPSS offices, the CalWORKs Mental Health funding (for treatment services) is still pending allocation by the State.

The State allocation process is targeted for completion by the end of August/early September. As soon as we know the funding available to Los Angeles County for treatment services for CalWORKs families, we will finalize our expansion plans and return to your Board for approval to proceed with the expansion. We are targeting the expansion to begin in October 2004.

Thereafter, once CIMH completes its evaluation of the projects, DPSS and DMH will return to your Board with recommended actions regarding service design changes (if any).

BY:mq

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
Chief Administrative Officer
County Counsel